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(54) Title: BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTATION FOR HEPATIC REGENERATION AND REPAIR

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to methods and compositions for stimulating liver regeneration in subjects with liver disorders. Specifically, the methods and compositions of the invention provide for the transplantation of bone marrow cells into a recipient host in amounts sufficient to result in the production of hepatocytes, bile ductal cells and oval cells during liver regeneration. The invention is based in the observation that bone-marrow derived cells, can participate in the production of hepatocytes, bile ductal cells and oval cells during liver regeneration. The present invention further provides methods for deriving enriched populations of hepatic oval cells, considered to be hepatic stem cells, utilizing antibodies that recognizes the Thy-1 cell surface antigen expressed on the surface of hepatic oval cells. The enriched populations of hepatic oval cells can be transplanted into a host for stimulating liver regeneration in subjects with liver disorders.

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